

**City of Morgantown**  
389 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 7, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 7:14 p.m.

**PRESENT:** City Manager Paul Brake, Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, City Clerk Christine Wade, Mayor William A. Kawecki, Deputy Mayor Rachel Fetty, and Council Members Zackery Cruze, Jenny Selin, Ron Dulaney, and Dave Harshbarger. Barry Wendell was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kawecki.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** December 3 and 17, 2019, Regular Meeting minutes were approved as printed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Councilor Harshbarger shared correspondence regarding the use of truck air compression brakes on Sixth Avenue and jake brakes on Route 7, and the noise that they cause. He shared that this is being addressed. Additionally he shared correspondence regarding thefts and concern for vandalism in the Greenmont area. Councilor Harshbarger advised that he plans to bring the neighborhood together to discuss the issues of the downtown area and share some of the initiatives. Councilor Cruze shared correspondence regarding the Wiles Hill Neighborhood Association. He provided a copy of a letter to council from the neighborhood association in support of placing the sharps containers within areas around the city.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:** Motion by Harshbarger, second by Selin, to appoint by consensus, Geri Dino to the Health & Wellness Commission.

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

Mayor Kawecki declared the Public Portion open.

Susan Eason, 739 Monongalia Avenue, on behalf of West Virginia Catholic Charities, spoke in favor of the approval of the resolution supporting the continued resettlement of refugees in Morgantown, and asked council to consider approval of the resolution.

David Goldberg, 2 Waterfront Place, on behalf of Mon Health Medical Center, provided council an update on the fiscal and technological advances achieved in the past year by Mon Health Medical Center.

There being no other speakers, Mayor Kawecki declared the Public Portion closed.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Councilor Dulaney shared an update on initiatives of some of the council members with the community. A group met to discuss initiatives for the downtown area concerns. Councilor Cruze leads a task group called work today get paid today program. Another task group is developing a communications campaign. Amy Chandler is leading the development of a program for expungement. Wes Thomas is looking into TIPS training being offered to downtown business owners. Gigi Villarreal is leading a task group looking at other models of street outreach.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ZONING RECLASSIFICATION OF A PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE IN THE SEVENTH WARD:** The below entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ZONING RECLASSIFICATION OF A PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE IN THE SEVENTH WARD OF THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN FROM R-1, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO B-1, NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT BY AMENDING ARTICLE 1331 OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN AS SHOWN ON THE EXHIBIT HERETO ATTACHED AND DECLARED TO BE A PART OF THIS ORDINANCE AS IF THE SAME WERE FULLY SET FORTH HEREIN

City Manager explained, after discussion, motion by Dulaney, second by Cruze, to approve the above entitled Ordinance to the second reading. Motion carried 6-0. Barry Wendell was absent.

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE LEASE AGREEMENT FOR OFFICE SPACE AT THE MORGANTOWN MUNICIPAL AIRPORT:** The below entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE LEASE AGREEMENT FOR OFFICE SPACE AT THE MORGANTOWN MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

City Manager explained, after discussion, motion by Dulaney, second by Harshbarger, to approve the entitled Ordinance to the second reading. Motion carried 6-0. Barry Wendell was absent.

**A RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO CONTINUED RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN MORGANTOWN:** The above entitled Resolution was presented for first reading.

City Manager explained, after discussion, motion by Deputy Mayor Fetty, second by Cruze, to approve the above entitled Resolution. Motion carried 6-0. Barry Wendell was absent.

# City of Morgantown

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

### Information:

#### 1. Strategic Plan 2017-2019 Final Report

City Manager presented council with the final progress report of the 2017 – 2019 Strategic Plan. No action was required.

**REPORT FROM CITY CLERK:** stated the first quarter finance report is due from Council. She stated that the WVML Mid-Winter Conference is January 26 and 27, 2020, that the United Way Campaign has been extended to the end of January 2020 and that she will be reaching out to employees and council with important information regarding that fundraiser. In responding to a concern from the 2019 election she found free online training on Diversity and Inclusion, and more specifically Unconscious Bias which she participated in and found it to be very valuable. She has asked her employee Heather to also complete this class. Mrs. Wade shared that the Morgantown Police Department will be promoting three (3) officers to Sergeant and that the Morgantown Fire Department will be promoting one (1) firefighter to Captain. She shared that Deputy Clerk Heather Carl facilitated the opportunity for city employees to sponsor a local child for Christmas. She aided the collection of more than \$400.00 for this child. City Clerk read a letter from the school Outreach Coordinator Chelsea Wilfong sharing her appreciation.

**REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY:** No Report

## REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**DEPUTY MAYOR FETTY:** wished everyone a Happy 2020. She shared her experience from earlier that day of the kindness of strangers and stated that that is one of the greater blessings of living in Morgantown. She spoke highly of the passing of the refugee resolution and hopes that we can be resilient enough to do a better job of reaching out and welcoming refugees to our community. She shared that there are Iranian refugees in our community and she hopes that we can reach out to members of our community who have contacts or who have a background and then we can do what we can to make this very difficult time less painful. Deputy Mayor stated that she has been visiting the Mylan pool at Mylan Park and stated that it is exceptional and hopes that everyone in the community gets a chance to go. She hopes that we can continue working on attainable housing and homelessness related issues as a community. There is a meeting about the sharps containers on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in chambers and a First Ward Neighborhood Association meeting on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**COUNCILOR CRUZE:** wished everyone a Happy New Year and reminded everyone that Code Enforcement has arranged for volunteers to remove snow from sidewalks and in front of homes if there are those that are mobility challenged or unable to do so. The telephone number to arrange that is 304-284-7471. He gave a shout out to the City Clerk and shared that he really appreciates that that we have a clerk who not only excels at her job, but also seeks out opportunities to increase diversity to increase her ability to make Morgantown a great place. You don't always get people working with you that are not only engaged in their job but are going

on their own time to seek out extra resources. There is a Sister Cities Commission meeting January 14<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. in the conference room of the Public Safety Building to kick off the year and set our agenda. There are some exciting conversations happening within the Sister Cities Commission. He shared that there is an opening on the commission and commented that it is going to be a good year for the Sister Cities Commission. He invited anyone who is interested in that to come out to that meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. The Triple-S Harley Davidson shop is having a chili cook-off and pepperoni cook off on the 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and it is \$10.00 to enter if you've got an awesome chili or pepperoni roll recipe.

**COUNCILOR SELIN:** shared information regarding the ice rink and the process with BOPARC in getting some architectural drawings. A major part of the funding has been accomplished, but additional funding from other sources needs solidified. She stated that as that work goes on if anyone has ideas or concepts that they would like to put forth to please speak with her or Deputy Mayor. The Tree Board was out looking through the White Park area today and she believes that that every bit of effort by the city and by people who care about that area is much appreciated. As well she feels that many will be pleasantly surprised by the results. She shared that some trees are definitely coming down, but the replacements are being lined up right now. Councilor Selin stated regarding Sunny Side Up that she very much appreciates Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli's work to keep the projects going. There are significant TIF funds available and they can make a real impact in that neighborhood. She looks forward to the sharps container discussion moving forward. She is on the Morgantown Area Partnership Board and there will be a retreat this weekend which she looks forward to because that organization is a huge success for our area, noting that the city will benefit from working together with a lot of other entities including businesses and nonprofits.

**COUNCILOR DULANEY:** also thanked the City Clerk for all that she does. He shared that he was recently at the Woodburn School visiting Popshop and saw how large the hole was in the floor which prompted him to thank Ms. Muzzarelli as well. He shared that the city has been very responsive and he appreciates it. That Ms. Muzzarelli has really helped to facilitate better relationships and better communication and it's very much appreciated. Progress is being made at the former Woodburn School as construction is underway. They are building the elevator and making way for the shaft. Last night the Jerome Park Neighborhood Association met to discuss issues of concern. He is happy to see specifically listed is the enforcement of blighted and abandoned properties for upcoming priority and to hear that we are going to up our efforts on that front. He stated that they talked about the pool, the hockey rink, and the idea of recreational courts that are open to the public. Councilor Dulaney stated that a Mon Valley Green Space Coalition member was at the meeting and provided a quick update and it sounds like some exciting plans are being made in terms of Trail and Greenway connected Greenway system through and around Morgantown. On Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> the Sabra United Methodist Church is hosting a pancake dinner to benefit flood relief. The Planning Commission meets this Thursday at 6:30 pm and that they will be looking at an overlay on the GIS system, and also relocation of our sidewalk ordinances within the code.


**COUNCILOR HARSHBARGER:** shared that the Rail Trail will be closed starting January 13<sup>th</sup> for approximately four weeks due to construction at Reynolds Hall. There will be a detour near Morgantown Brewery continuing down Beechurst to Seneca Center and then back onto the Rail Trail. He commented that they are seeking two (2) or three (3) members to the Mon River Trails Conservancy (MRTC) as board members. If there are people interested in joining we do have vacancies. There are three (3) vacancies on the Traffic Commission and they are from the Third, Fourth and Fifth Ward if people are interested in serving. Councilor Dulaney mentioned earlier some of the work that they all are involved with the downtown issues regarding the homelessness, addiction, behavioral health, and in how everyone can help. There is also concern of criminal behavior that is being reported. In speaking with the Morgantown Police Officers there is an increased effort to have more of a police presence.

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**COUNCILOR WENDELL:** Absent

**MAYOR KAWECKI:** shared that there are opportunities for volunteers in our committees. He shared that we have been blessed with a good number of people occupying the spaces but there are few openings that we are still recruiting for. He asked if there is anyone interested in serving your city that Council would certainly be interested in having you come in. Mayor Kaweck spoke of the West Virginia Municipal League Conference on the 26th and the 27<sup>th</sup> and asked which council members would be attending so that efforts could be made for travel if necessary. Some things to do around town are Andy Tuck at the Black Bear Burrito on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Jeff Grable at Morgantown Flour and Feed on the 10<sup>th</sup> and on the 11<sup>th</sup> is the Old-Time Dance at the Marilla Center. To see Finding Nemo go to the Metropolitan Theater and have some popcorn and sit and relax and watch a good movie with your kids. At 8:00 pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> you can see Jeff Grable at Gene's. Also for those interested in animals or birds there is an event at the Botanic Garden on the 11th. On the 14<sup>th</sup> there will be Max swing dance lessons for \$8.00 at the Monongalia Arts Center.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, motion by Selin, second by Dulaney, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:16 p.m.

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor

